

guidelines and truly being able to cover all of life's expenses, including school meals.

"Our school nutrition program, students, and community thrived with universal free meals. Without them, the future looks dim."

That is why we are urgently asking Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to not allow for these waivers to lapse. It is detrimental for us not to act and do the right thing.

We also heard from a registered dietitian and the food service director for a small rural school district. She wrote: "Our enrollment pre-K-12 is only 660 students, but well over half of them live in food-insecure homes. Prior to the waivers, in February of 2020, only 20 percent of our youngest students in pre-K-6 ate breakfast with us.

"They would come in from the buses separate from their peers, singled out as 'free breakfast kids' while the others waited to start their day. . . . The last 2½ years has seen a sea change for our tiny school district.

"Due to free meals for all, we are able to transition our students starting in September 2020 to a Breakfast in the Classroom Program. Every day, they have a choice of the hot, nutritious meal of the day or cereal, both options served with fruit and ice-cold milk.

"Students take menus home at the beginning of the month, decide on which days they would like what meals. Teachers work collaboratively with the food service department to preorder breakfast daily. . . . Our breakfast participation has skyrocketed from 20 percent in February 2020 to 85 percent as of Friday of last week. Our numbers continue to grow. And even better? Eating breakfast together as a school community has become part of the woven fabric of our little district. . . . What will September look like without these waivers?" she asks.

"It will be heartbreaking. . . . With the inflation we have seen reflected in grocery store prices, some of these students may well come to school with empty bellies. We will lose the sense of community, solidarity, and unity we have built over these past 2½ years. The stigma of 'needing help' will be stamped upon the kids who are lucky enough to qualify while many others slip through the cracks, unlucky to have adults in their households who make enough to disqualify them from receiving benefits but poor enough to struggle as they balance \$5 per gallon gasoline, food, and increased rent.

"We are literally begging all of you in Congress to please help us keep our kids fed. So many of them depend upon us. As we know, it is so hard to learn on an empty stomach."

I will end with where I started. This is a crisis. As I have always said, as someone who has lived in a war-engulfed country, who has lived in a refugee camp, who has experienced what severe hunger can look like for a child who doesn't have access to food, it is

baffling to me that we see some of these stories coming out of communities here in the United States, in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

If we truly care about our children, and if we truly care about building a future generation that is ready to lead in our country, we have to care about getting them educated and ready. You cannot feed the brains of children if their bellies are not fed. We must act, and we must act now.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

INFLATION AND OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Democrats have enjoyed unilateral control of Washington for the last 17 months, and we all know the results: record inflation, soaring gas prices, unhinged crime in our cities, and uninhibited illegal immigration.

In the midst of all this, what issue gets their prime-time billing? Very simple. They are displaying their seething hatred for Donald Trump and anybody who ever supported him.

For nearly a year now, they have invested thousands of hours, millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars. They have interviewed hundreds and hundreds of witnesses. They compiled 100,000 pages of documents. They hired lawyers, consultants, and even big network TV producers. And all for what?

They are doing this production, this rehash, this replay of a moment-by-moment dissection of a terrible event that took place here a year and a half ago. They thought the American people would be riveted by their production, but the ratings have proven what everybody already knew. The American people have lived through all this, and they have moved on.

In fact, we thought it was interesting, according to one report, CBS' decision to bump a "Young Sheldon" rerun from its prime-time slot in favor of Thursday's January 6 hearing resulted in fewer viewers than the identical time slot the prior week. Reruns of "Young Sheldon" played better than the January 6 drama.

The American people have moved on. They have moved on to caring about things that actually affect their daily lives.

Look, the criminals involved in January 6 are being prosecuted. Lessons about Capitol security were learned here. We will never know the true facts about all that, of course, because Speaker PELOSI's partisan committee will not look into why we didn't have adequate security here.

But the Senate produced a bipartisan report on all these events a year ago. The truth is the Democrats could hire an army of broadcast media executives and specialists to try to boost their ratings, but it will not change the simple facts.

The election this fall is going to be about three things. It is going to be about inflation, immigration, and incompetence, the staggering levels of incompetence that the Democrats in charge of Washington put on display here every single day.

If the Democrats want to reverse their political fortunes, they need to reverse their policies. But we all know, of course, they refuse to do that. So hardworking American families will continue, very sadly, to struggle as our country becomes less safe, less secure, and less stable by the hour.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me tonight to discuss the myriad crises facing our country. They are all taking a back seat to the Democrats' reality show, but we think it is important to point out to the American people the realities here, the true realities of what is happening and what we are facing as a country, these unprecedented challenges.

Madam Speaker, I yield first to the fine gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, this week, President Biden visited Philadelphia and attempted to spin a narrative fully detached from the reality Americans face every day. Speaking to a group of labor unions, the President professed to be advancing a pro-worker agenda. He proclaimed, "We are changing people's lives."

Well, he is right, only not for the better. Inflation is at a 40-year high, costing Pennsylvania families an additional \$517 more per month.

Gas prices are above \$5 a gallon, forcing families to spend \$2,800 more at the pump than last year.

Pennsylvanians are smart, hard-working people. They know that they are not better off today than they were just 18 short months ago.

While the President continues to blame Republicans in Congress for the economic disaster he has created, the fact remains that Democrats control the House, the Senate, and the White House. If the President truly cared about stopping skyrocketing inflation, he would stop calling for more out-of-control spending, stop shutting down American energy production, and stop blaming others for his failures.

It is time that he has faith in the American people and gets out of the way.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is so well said. Just get out of the way. Let the American people do it.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to another great gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, President Biden's plan to tame escalating inflation passes the buck to Americans once again. Costs for driving to work, feeding families, housing, and utilities are under unimaginable increases and strain on my constituents, thanks to the disastrous policies.

President Biden largely puts responsibility on the Federal Reserve to stabilize inflation. However, the shocks that the Biden administration has brought to our economy are out of the Fed's control. Sure, they play a role here. A majority of the inflation, however, has been caused by the assault on domestic energy, excessive government spending, and incentivizing a lack of American productivity.

President Biden then wonders why we don't embrace his plan to reduce inflation by tapping the emergency energy reserves. Somehow that is going to lower gas prices. Well, it hasn't. It is a bad idea, and it hasn't made a dent.

Shockingly, against every fundamental of economics that we are even taught back in the seventh grade, Madam Speaker, he wants to raise taxes on American businesses, which, according to the Biden administration, will reduce the deficit, slow inflation, and create jobs. I am surprised it wouldn't put food on the table as well.

Americans, in their opinion, need relief right now, not in some far off, far out way. Small businesses are rightfully concerned about surviving after having to absorb huge new costs since the Biden administration came into office. And this is factual. The data is there, and the graphs are there.

Bidenomics has greatly worsened what was and is a challenging time for our economy. But digging a hole much deeper than necessary and exacerbating pain for Americans who are struggling to cope with one economic hardship after another is certainly not the answer.

There is no doubt the Federal Reserve's delay in acting did make inflation worse, and America's overreliance on goods made in China also contributed to inflation, along with the COVID supply chain setbacks. However, we would be nowhere near the position we are in now if it were not for the terrible Bidenomics that they put in place. These reckless actions have turned economic challenges into a full-blown, as some describe, hurricane of an economic crisis.

These policies have spearheaded an assault, an absolute assault, on our domestic energy—this is unforgivable—over the last 18 months.

President Biden canceled the Keystone pipeline. That was just the start

of it. He halted issuance of other pipeline and drilling permits—far less were issued than were ever issued during the Obama years; mitigated LNG exports; threatened domestic banks and investment companies against investing in carbon fuels.

Our domestic energy went from a state of independence and surplus to a high level of dependency. After these Biden administration policies kicked in, the U.S. became at the mercy, once again, to the energy players like OPEC and Russia, meaning any geopolitical disruption would spike gas prices, leading to cascades of issues for Americans, consumers, and businesses.

Madam Speaker, we have seen this before. This is a rerun. This is why U.S. domestic energy independence is so crucial.

However, the administration, and many in this Chamber, have a “go green now or else” mentality, which has generated \$5-plus gasoline prices and caused natural gas to go so far high up in price that fertilizer costs have caused farmers' prices and costs to skyrocket. Of course, food on everybody's table soon followed.

□ 1715

Biden and the Democrats—and it is far too many Democrats, frankly—in Congress continued spending trillions which exacerbated inflation, leading to predictable inflation where even Democrats such as Larry Summers, an economist, stated, look out for a rapid rise and a sustained inflationary period.

Many others said, Oh, no, Larry's wrong this time. Well, Larry was not wrong. Now, with the threat of tax increases and a laundry list of every regulatory antigrowth measure imaginable, this woke, go-broke economy is going to continue to fail American families.

Madam Speaker, we must encourage responsible domestic energy production. We must lower taxes to rev up our economy. The United States must have the most competitive economy in the world, job creation machine and perhaps a job creation tax credit.

We must support production of items made in America. We must do our very best to buy American, and we need to pivot from this awful path that we continue to be on.

I will wrap up by simply stating that we must recognize where the problem started, what the problem is, have a plan for solutions, and that means having the courage to change course now.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you for that expertise. You sound like a former Secretary of Revenue or something from the State of Pennsylvania.

As you pointed out, my friend, you don't have to be an economist to figure this out. Every freshman economics student knows if you keep printing money and dropping it into the economy, you are going to cause inflation. This is not rocket science, but you know what? The President of the

United States apparently doesn't get it.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted next to yield to the good doctor from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana, the gentleman, for his leadership. I really appreciate it.

If Joe Biden valued America, if he valued our freedoms, our prosperity, our success, our influence on the world, he would value the security of our economy. He would value a balanced budget, and he would value your financial future.

But, of course, we know he doesn't. Your financial stability gets in the way of his agenda. The money that Biden asked for and that Democrats in this Chamber incessantly spend is not only just random dollars and cents from who knows where, but also money that you have earned from your hard work, money that should have been used to ensure you and your family see a stable and prosperous future.

Plain and simple, these antigrowth and pro-tax policies have us hurtling toward a recession and will destroy your ability to build the future that you want to have. It is no wonder that consumer confidence and the Democrats' agenda is reeling nationwide.

Last month, inflation increased at the quickest pace since December of 1981—8.6 percent over the past year. Those aren't just words. Inflation means that everything costs you more.

Inflation this high, rising that quickly, means that American families are now facing the very harsh reality that they could be on the brink of financial ruin which many respected economists now are fearing that the wheels may come off of our economy.

Commonsense solutions could have prevented most of this. Reckless socialist spending sparked the fire and paying workers to stay home fanned that flame.

The irresponsible policies coming out of the Democrat party spurred on a manufacturing and supply chain disaster like we have never seen before in our history—all for the sake of a woke socialist agenda.

I hope that they are proud of themselves. I hope that they are proud that they have caused energy prices to rise by more than 30 percent. I hope they are proud that gasoline is \$5 a gallon across the country, nearly a 100 percent increase.

I hope they are proud that we still don't have baby formula on the shelves and that people cannot put food on the table because prices are way up, over 12 percent now, and that wages are shrinking, and that fewer women and minorities are in the workforce, and that the stock market is volatile and has lost trillions of Americans' wealth. I could go on and on.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are responsible for this, and it is time that they take responsibility and shift course before it is too late. Our very future hangs in the balance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, that was so well said.

Dr. Babin, that woke socialist policy has brought some real pain to the American people. I think they have had enough.

Mr. BABIN. Amen.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. November can't get here soon enough.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we will talk a little bit about the border again and what I think is kind of an inappropriate way to handle some recent events that happened down there.

First of all, we have got to give the backdrop, right. We are all familiar with the most recent statistics available. For April of 2022, 184,000 people crossed in the country that were not appropriately vetted and we do not particularly want here.

A year ago, that 184,000 number was at 66,000. Two years ago, under the prior administration, it was 5,700. So, first of all, the American public should kind of let that sink in: 5,700 a month to 66,000 a month to 184,000 a month. Horrific.

Part of monitoring the border is showing respect for the Border Patrol. I have been on the border eight times over the last 2 years, and I think they are the most professional of law enforcement agencies I have run into.

Last September, when potential Haitian immigrants tried to cross the Rio Grande and get up on shore, agents on horses used reins to protect the Haitians from the horses' hooves.

Every agent I have talked to felt this was an entirely appropriate way to protect the Haitians who were trying to come into our country. But President Biden, the new expert on horsemanship, felt that the new immigrants were strapped, whatever that meant, and said that they would have to pay.

Now, the Department of Homeland Security claims that the Border Patrol agents should be disciplined for protecting the Haitians from the horses' hooves.

Since then, President Biden's budget, the last budget which he signed, the last appropriation bill, provided millions of dollars for monitoring and disciplining the Border Patrol.

This is kind of a mental problem we have seen before in Washington. It reminds me when we had record murders in our big cities, and Washington responded by saying that we had to pass a bill making it easier to sue the police. In other words, all these people dying, records in the last 2 years in Milwaukee—which is adjacent to my district, and they think the problem is the police.

In any event, that is what the Biden administration did. They claimed the police were racist, making it easier to sue police. Obviously, that is inappropriate.

The other thing I think is inappropriate is we hired a new Border Patrol head who used to be a police chief. When he was a police chief, he wouldn't cooperate with ICE when they had problems with people who they were trying to deport or people who were here illegally.

I mean, can you imagine what type of effect that has on the Border Patrol agents when the person who is supposed to be the boss doesn't seem to be on board with the underlying mission?

I believe he also had a problem in which he was accused of some harassment in his prior job. Now, we have got to hire some more Border Patrol agents here, and the way to do it is to not have the administration treat these brave, honorable people inappropriately.

So I call upon Congress to try to weigh in with the President. If you have taken a trip down to the border, tell him how great the Border Patrol agents are.

Make that an attractive job because we need top-flight agents to save our country from people who don't belong here and also to save our country from the sea of fentanyl that is flowing in here and that apparently is not something that concerns Congress a whole lot.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you, my friend. That border crisis continues to grow by the hour. Right now as we speak, there is the largest caravan we think that has ever been spotted currently headed to our southern border.

It was incentivized, of course, by the Biden administration's open border agenda. The caravan has as many as maybe 15,000 people, most from Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

Here is the key point. One of the migrants is reported to have told FOX News that he hopes President Biden will keep his amnesty promise to the caravan. You know, that is exactly why people from more than 160 countries have been flooding over that border since right after Joe Biden took office.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Vice Chairman JOHNSON, for yielding valuable time out of your very busy schedule. Madam Speaker, thank you, ma'am.

The Biden administration's response to the baby formula crisis has been a joke. President Biden has tried to deflect the blame by claiming he wasn't aware of the severity of the shortage until April of 2022.

To me, Madam Speaker, Mr. Chairman, this claim just shows he either has no idea about what is going on in his administration or in this country, or he is a liar, or maybe both.

The FDA received a whistleblower's report, as you well know, in October of 2021 about the sanitation issues at the Abbott manufacturing plant, but they

didn't do anything about it. They didn't have any intention to do anything about it.

They only closed the facility in February of 2022 when two precious little babies died after drinking formula from that plant, and to me, that is criminal.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's signature move, as always, is see a problem, don't do anything, then blame others when things go wrong.

I always remember the words of Harry Truman, "The buck stops here." This President has repeated those, and he has yet to follow his own advice, and I believe things have certainly gone wrong.

The out-of-stock rate for baby formula was recently 70 percent across our great country—70 percent. This means that parents across this Nation are going to be unable to feed their little ones.

This disproportionately affects our low-income families because folks with money generally are going to find something. They are going to find it on the internet, find a friend or somewhere else.

Of course, House Democrats' solution was to give \$28 million to a bloated bureaucracy at the FDA to address the shortage. But, of course, \$23 million of it was for staff salaries and the administration.

Of course, the bill that passed that was bipartisan cleared up some of the bureaucracy, but that was completely ignored by the media.

It is mainly because the media, by and large, except for a few exceptions, is totally in the tank for this administration. They have so much invested in him that they can't stand to see him fail, which he is—horribly.

I believe throwing money at a problem is not going to make it go away. You need a plan to go with it. You need to cut some of this red tape and bureaucracy. It gets in the way of enacting real solutions.

We still likely won't see any formula hitting the shelves until mid-July—mid-July. I think that is unacceptable, Mr. Chairman. We need to feed our babies today.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership, and as you have told me many times when I was a freshman, that when you are sitting at the table, there will be time enough for counting when the dealing is done. You, sir, are the gambler.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. And you have got to know when to fold.

Madam Speaker, Tennessee is going so well, I may as well yield to another good friend, another gentleman from the State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), one that is even more reputable than the last speaker.

Mr. ROSE. So true. Thank you, Vice Chairman JOHNSON. I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, the average cost of a gallon of gas in this country just passed \$5 per gallon for the very first time. I repeat: The average cost of a

gallon of gas in this country just passed \$5 per gallon for the very first time.

I would like to remind Americans, especially those on the other side of the aisle who may not be affected because they drive electric vehicles, that prices at the pump started to go up well before Vladimir Putin's disgraceful invasion of Ukraine.

In fact, they started climbing shortly after President Biden took office. It is not a coincidence. It is not an unintended consequence. It was the President's intended outcome.

The President doesn't beat around the bush on the topic of fossil fuels. On the campaign trail, he pledged to get rid of them. I would say he is well on his way to keeping that promise.

Remember, this country was a net exporter of oil. Now we are stuck hoping the President has a good meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the same country he called a pariah, one that we hope results in them producing more oil and, hopefully, lowering global prices.

This administration has taken many steps to make it next to impossible to expand drilling here at home. We all remember how quickly the President killed the Keystone XL pipeline with no regard for the impact that would have on those jobs or how dependent it would make us on foreign oil suppliers.

This administration has also proposed more than \$80 billion in tax increases on energy producers in the first two budget cycles since being in office.

□ 1730

We know the war in Ukraine has impacted fuel prices, but we Republicans argue that we didn't have to be reliant on foreign countries. If we just used the oil we have here at home, we probably could have kept prices down. Now, we are asking OPEC to produce more. It makes no sense.

The President calls this moment an incredible transition. I see nothing incredible about it. In fact, the only transition I see is the American people going from being able to provide for their families to being stuck at home because of record inflation and gas prices that have more than doubled.

We are not going to go from oil to electric consumption overnight. The grid isn't ready for an all-electric future. We should pursue an all-of-the-above approach that includes oil. The Tennessee Valley Authority uses 39 percent nuclear, 19 percent coal, 26 percent natural gas, 11 percent hydro, and 3 percent wind and solar to power millions of homes across the Tennessee valley. That is how you make sure you are not just energy independent, but you are energy dominant.

The answer isn't raiding our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The answer certainly isn't relying on foreign countries for supply. The answer is tapping into the resources with which our Nation happens to be abundantly blessed.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend is correct. That en-

ergy crisis haunts every American. We see no end in sight because the White House will not reverse its policies.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the misguided priorities of this Chamber.

At a time when Americans are facing extreme hardship—grappling with the highest rates of inflation in more than 40 years; \$5 per gallon, at least, gas; workforce and food shortages; and unprecedented crime and illegal border crossings—House Democrats continue to ignore urgent matters and, instead, engage in deflection.

For example, the majority scheduled three irrelevant bills for consideration on the House floor.

The first allocated \$1.3 billion in annual mandatory spending, Madam Speaker, for a new regulatory agency to protect endangered species. This is the type of tone-deaf policy proposals that show Democrats are out of touch with the American people, unfortunately.

The second bill brought up for consideration targets the Federal Reserve at a crucial time. The Federal Reserve is supposed to be an independent, non-political, agency tasked with managing our Nation's monetary policy, yet House Democrats want to divert the Fed's attention away from addressing an impending recession and instead impose its woke agenda. Out of touch, Madam Speaker.

This truly defies common sense, in my opinion. Inflation hurts all Americans, regardless of race, and turning the Federal Reserve into a social justice warrior will only serve to compound the hurt for everyone, unfortunately, Madam Speaker.

The third measure brought to the floor this week is more deflection. In essence, it adds more costs to U.S. producers. That is no way to do it. This will only serve to increase the cost of doing business. Those increased costs will get passed along to the consumer, like you and me.

Another attempted distraction is the sham January 6 hearings hosted during prime-time TV in a gross display of partisan gamesmanship. These are not fact checking.

It is no secret I voted against the creation of this panel. It was clear from the onset that Democrat leaders had no interest in an open and unbiased review of what occurred that day when they denied all Republican-named nominees to the panel.

Any doubt that this would be anything more than a bogus, made-for-TV drama was put to rest when footage surfaced that the committee was relying on teleprompters, and when ratings weren't good, they canceled or postponed hearings. My goodness.

Madam Speaker, I will not be distracted from the real problems facing American families. I will keep fighting to do the right thing by my constitu-

ents. If House Democrats had any sense of urgency, they would put aside the political charade and join me and my Republican colleagues to get the hard stuff done.

Time is of the essence. The American people cannot wait any longer.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend said it well. He is right, time is of the essence. Every day that we belabor and continue these radical leftist policies, the American people feel more and more pain.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to my good friend from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON for hosting this Special Order tonight and for allowing us to highlight the various crises that are affecting our Nation today.

Last week, inflation hit a whopping 8.6 percent, the highest since 1981, and gas prices have soared to \$5 a gallon nationwide for the first time in history. In fact, just last week, for the first time in my life, I paid more than \$100 just to fill up the gas tank of my pickup truck. As the good Speaker knows, if our own home State had not temporarily suspended the gas tax in Georgia, it would have been \$110 to fill up my pickup truck.

Consumer confidence has plunged to a record low, and I don't blame them. Gas, groceries, utilities, common goods, they are all going up. Month after month, the sticker shock continues to burden American workers and families, with no end in sight.

Yet President Biden comically claims he is, and I quote, changing people's lives. Well, I think he really is, but it is not changing for the better. Dare I say the President's policies are actually ruining people's lives, destroying the middle class, and dismantling our economy. Our Nation is in full buyer's remorse.

The American people are increasingly fearful of a recession. What are the Democrats here in Congress doing about it right now? As of late, their focus has been prime time political hearings, aimed at smearing President Trump and his supporters, as well as infringing on Americans' constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Not to mention, earlier this afternoon, the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy of the Committee on Oversight and Reform held our very first hearing in 2022. The subject? Investigating tick and flea collars. I just can't make this stuff up. It was not Jimmy Carter-era inflation. It didn't make the cut.

And then we have the news reports from this morning that suggest some of my Democrat colleagues are focused on instituting gender-neutral bathrooms throughout Capitol Hill.

What in the world is going on? I can assure my Democrat colleagues that my constituents in Georgia's Ninth District are far more concerned about putting food on the table and filling their gas tanks than any of the liberal nonsense that this body is so fixated on.

Democrats' severely misguided priorities are a disgrace, but maybe they are actually intended to be a distraction because tackling inflation head-on would require Democrats and President Biden to face the undeniable reality that their Big Government, socialist agenda caused this mess in the first place.

The American people deserve better, period. Congress must refocus its attention on implementing effective solutions in order to get our economy and our country back on track, just like it was under President Trump's leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend from Georgia made a great summary of the crisis that we are in. I thank him for bringing that.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), my dear friend, and the third speaker from the good State of Tennessee, can't have enough of those Vols.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I had a lot of problems to choose from tonight, but I rise today to talk about the border crisis.

I remind the American people that our national security is still in jeopardy as our southern border remains wide open. Since Joe Biden took office, over 2.6 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the southern border.

Because of President Biden's failed open border policies, more drugs have been smuggled into our neighborhoods than ever before. CBP estimates that nearly 5,300 pounds of deadly fentanyl analogues have been apprehended, and that is enough to kill 2.4 billion people. I don't know of a person that I talk to or that I see that hasn't been touched by the loss of somebody concerning overdoses.

As a pharmacist, I know this all too well, that the illegal fentanyl analogues flowing through Joe's open border have caused unthinkable harm by poisoning our communities.

According to the Metro Public Health Department in Nashville last year, 74 percent of overdose-related toxicology reports detected fatal fentanyl analogues.

Wondering how all that fentanyl is getting into a State like mine? I am not even a border State.

It is no coincidence that Border Patrol agents reported a 1,066 percent increase in fentanyl seizures at just one stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border last year.

The influx of dangerous, illegal drugs is making its way through all our neighborhoods, and this is no longer a geographically tied tragedy. As I said before, Tennessee isn't a border State, but we are all border States. The Biden administration's failure has had deadly consequences, and my home State has not been immune.

As I stand here today, the largest caravan of people intending to illegally reside in the United States is heading

to our southern border. Word has gotten around that Joe Biden is soft on crime and that he has opened his arms and our border to anyone and everyone.

This caravan could total up to 15,000 people, and that far outnumbers our Border Patrol agents who are already struggling to protect our borders. These thousands are just crumbs compared to the millions who have entered our country illegally in the last year.

I have been to the border more times now in my first term in the House of Representatives than Joe Biden has in nearly half a century in public service. What I saw there at both Eagle Pass and the Rio Grande Valley Sector was heartbreaking and infuriating.

I had the opportunity to speak with our Border Patrol agents who just want to do their job and keep our Nation safe, but they are struggling under the conditions this administration has boxed them into. They don't have enough resources, manpower, or support to turn away the hordes of invaders that come through the border every single day, and the illicit and illegal criminals that are coming, the got-aways, we don't know who they are, where they came from, or where they are going. That is of even more concern.

In fact, they have been encouraged to help transport these individuals to every corner of the Nation without a way of knowing who they are or where they are going. What we do know is who is paying for all this, and that is a simple answer. It is the American taxpayer.

This year, Secretary Mayorkas admitted that Americans are out \$72 million just from President Biden's order to halt the border wall construction. We are paying not to build the border wall. Plainly speaking, the American people are being charged to ensure they are less safe. This crisis greatly benefits the cartels and gravely threatens Americans.

Every State is a border State as Joe Biden's border crisis damages our national security. This crisis has gone on long enough. Americans deserve better, and they deserve a closed border.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I have another colleague or two on the way. How much time is remaining on the clock in this Special Order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I will read a quote here that is very familiar to everyone now because it has been repeated over and over in the last several days. It is from CHUCK SCHUMER. Of course, he is the Democrat leader on the Senate side. He stood on the steps of the United States Supreme Court, and he exclaimed to a crowd, to their applause, and to all the television cameras, what is now a quote that lives in infamy, "I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will

pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

□ 1745

The leader of the Democrats in the Senate stood on the steps of the United States Supreme Court and threatened the Justices by name.

Now, what is happening? What is happening now? Well, people are heeding that advice. There was a leaked opinion, an unprecedented, terribly tragic event there that will harm the institution permanently, the Supreme Court. Some clerk, we suspect—I think it is one of the liberal law clerks for one of the liberal Justices, the three Justices on that Court committed to that ideology. Somebody leaked the draft opinion, and it has caused a whirlwind.

All of these protesters are criminals. They are not really protesters. They are criminals because this is blatantly against the black letter of the Federal law. 18 U.S.C. 1507 openly makes this a crime. You can't protest at the home of a judge to try to influence their opinion. Yet, that is exactly what is happening.

As we speak right now, there are liberal activists on the lawns of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the conservative Justices.

Do you know what? Their lives are in danger because we now know, just a few days ago, a would-be assassin was apprehended on the lawn of Justice Kavanaugh. He was home with his wife and his two young daughters.

This is a dangerous thing, and this is what is wrought when so-called leaders tell the American people to get in the faces of their political opponents, to release the whirlwind, you won't know what hit you, and all the rest. That is what is happening right now.

What are Republicans doing about it? What is Congress doing about it? Nothing at all. The Democrat majority won't even acknowledge that this is a problem. In fact, on this floor last night, we had 27 progressives, 27 of the Democrats in this House, vote against a simple bill, a measure that would provide security and protection for the innocent children of these Justices. They voted against that. It is unbelievable.

People back home ask me, my constituents, say: What are they thinking? What in the world is going on? Do they want people to be harmed?

Look, I think the motive is that they want to send a message to the radical left that we like you violating the law. We want you on the lawns of conservative judges. We want you to try to intimidate them into changing their opinions because they may overturn Roe, or they may interpret the Constitution in a way that the radical left disagrees with.

This is a tinderbox. This is a dangerous time in the country. The so-called leaders here are encouraging and inflaming this. Heaven forbid if someone actually gets hurt.

We filed a resolution here within a few days of that leak last month. Forty-five Members joined me in that resolution. We called upon the Department of Justice to enforce 18 U.S.C. 1507, to enforce the law that makes it a crime to picket or parade to influence a judge. Do you know what? Crickets. The Department of Justice hasn't done anything.

Can you imagine if a threat was made to one of the liberal Justices? Can you imagine the outcry? The mainstream media and the Democrats here, the radical left, they would be demanding action. But if it is a conservative judge, hey, fair game, apparently. It is open season on conservative judges. That is what we have now.

We also filed, last month, the Leaker Accountability Act that would make it a crime to knowingly share confidential information from the Supreme Court. I authored that legislation. I think it ought to be punishable by a fine or up to 5 years imprisonment.

We have to send a message. This behavior, the leak, the violence that has ensued because of it, is unacceptable. The idea, again, that our colleagues would vote against protection for the children of these judges is, to me, unconscionable and an unforgivable vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for leading these important topics here.

There is such a broad range of things we can be talking about, but one of the key issues that finally we got action on was the issue with the crazy radicals that have illegally protested outside of the Supreme Court Justices' homes, threatening them, going so far as even implicating that they are going to have an assassination attempt on a Supreme Court Justice.

What kind of system of government will we have if they have to worry about whether they are going to be assaulted or even killed over doing their job?

After weeks of twiddling their thumbs as this violence escalated, finally, we were able to pass the Supreme Court Police Parity Act.

Meanwhile, inflation rates have skyrocketed for months, and prices on everything are going up dramatically because of supply chain issues that could be fixed if the administration and this Congress were focused on the American people instead of pie-in-the-sky things like the Green New Deal or others.

We have seen little action from the left on these issues. It looks like we will be too busy to bring to the floor these solutions that we have been working on in the Committee on Agriculture and others. Instead, we get the soap opera, complete with prime time and production from ABC News executives, otherwise known as the January 6th Select Committee. Select what?

The hearings are being broadcasted in prime time, although the ratings are

actually going in the toilet for that, as reruns from other programs are outstripping them, including the TV show called "Young Sheldon," which is actually kind of entertaining, I guess. What it really shows is that viewers would rather watch paint dry than watch a bunch of lawmakers using teleprompters in their made-for-TV drama.

We didn't need a whole partisan production when BENNIE THOMPSON objected to the 2004 Presidential election, and we had a Senator join in on that, to bring that to a vote. I guess that all is different when it is a Republican coming in.

We need to look into the security failures of the day, on January 6, and ask the real questions that need to be asked. The select committee is, instead, doctoring evidence, texts, and other things to make it look like a one-sided deal. If we had balance on the committee, we would actually be getting to ask the real questions and get down to real solutions.

With many reviews conducted of the security vulnerabilities in the Capitol, we have a lot to do in order to make it more secure and something that people can have confidence in, in the process we are supposed to have here, including on that day, January 6, when we were supposed to constitutionally complete our work, though I had colleagues saying: "Are we going to actually go back in there and complete it?" Yes, we have to do our job. We have those duties on January 6 following each Presidential election.

Is it politics or is it solutions? Soaring gas prices; baby formula shortages, for crying out loud; sky-high inflation; rising crime rates; illegal aliens flooding across our border.

The only thing the Dems really want to run on is bashing President Trump. Well, he is not President anymore. Even though he is living rent-free inside their heads, we need to move on to something else, getting the work done, the job done, for the American people, who are suffering right now because of the policies and the inattention to the details that would help them.

Let's get to work on the real things.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for faithfully coming to this floor and speaking to his constituents and the American people about these very serious issues that face us as a country. His voice is an important one.

I am grateful to him and our many colleagues for joining us tonight to discuss all of these crises facing our country that are taking a back seat to the Democrat reality show and the most radical set of domestic and foreign policies that America has ever seen.

As we close, I remind everybody—we heard it last night—the President exclaimed in his now infamous speech, he said: "We are changing people's lives." You saw that?

Mr. LAMALFA. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. There is zero doubt about that, Mr. President. Lives are being devastated under your policies.

I will just say this, as we conclude: November cannot get here soon enough.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be here during Children's Week, alongside a number of my colleagues, to elevate the ongoing need to invest in and support kids.

This year, Children's Week comes at a time when we are facing critically important policy decisions that could lift millions of kids out of poverty. Over the last 2 years, Congress made the most significant investment in kids in decades. Legislation passed during the pandemic, including the expanded and improved child tax credit, which I was proud to for vote in the American Rescue Plan, increased the share of Federal spending on children by nearly 50 percent.

But as emergency measures expire, children are experiencing a backslide. More than 3 million children have been pushed back into poverty since the expiration of the child tax credit. More than 6 million children are poised to lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage when the public health emergency is revoked. Thousands of school meal providers could be forced to shut down if child nutrition waivers expire at the end of this month, leaving millions of kids without healthy meals this summer.

The expiration of these provisions comes at a time when children are navigating incredible challenges, including an epidemic of gun violence, a wave of anti-LGBTQ-plus legislation, and a mental health crisis. These examples serve as a reminder that every issue is a kids issue.

As a member of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, ending child poverty has been one of my top priorities. Children are currently the poorest demographic group in the United States, and our child poverty rate remains shockingly high compared to our economic peers. Even in some of our